

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/767,009

Examiner

Douglas Q. Tran

Applicant(s)

YAMAMOTO, MIKA

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 1/23/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13 renumbered as 1-6.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/449,968.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DOUGLAS Q. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Tran

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The abstract has been amended as follows:

An information processing apparatus connectable with an external printer, includes communicating ~~means~~ unit for communication with the external printer; notifying ~~means~~ unit for notifying the external printer of pre-print notification through the communicating ~~means~~ unit when execution of printing is instructed; generating ~~means~~ unit for processing, after the notifying ~~means~~ unit executes the notification, data to be printed to generate print data; sending ~~means~~ unit for the sending the print data generated by the generating ~~means~~ unit to the external printer through the communicating ~~means~~ unit.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12-13 are allowed.

Claims 4, 10, 12-13 are independent claims.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to claims 4, 10, 12-13, the present invention from the application discloses a printing system, method and control program comprises "discriminating means for discriminating whether a cleaning operation is necessary before a printing operation when analysis by said

Art Unit: 2624

analyzing means indicates that the command is a notification of preparation before printing; and preparation means for effecting the cleaning operation for the printing head prior to the printing operation when analysis by said analyzing means indicates that the command is a notification of preparation before printing and discrimination by said discrimination means indicates that the cleaning operation is necessary”.

The closest prior art such as Iwasaki (US Patent No. 5,803,623), which is recorded on the Examiner's Remark, discloses remove data output means for sending removal command to a printer for instructing the printer to remove the stand by state of the printer; and Shimoda (US Patent No. 6,382,764 B1), which is recorded on the Examiner's Remark, discloses the preparation steps for clean the ink jet head of the printer.

However, the combination of the above prior art, including an updated electronic text search, fails to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Examiner's Remark

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Art Unit: 2624

Iwasaki (US Patent No. 5,803,623) discloses which is recorded on the Examiner's Remark, discloses remove data output means for sending removal command to a printer for instructing the printer to remove the stand by state of the printer; and

Shimoda (US Patent No. 6,382,764 B1), which is recorded on the Examiner's Remark, discloses the preparation steps for clean the ink jet head of the printer.

Contact information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas Q. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-7442 or E-mail address is douglas.tran@uspto.gov.

Feb. 22, 2006

DOUGLAS Q. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Tranlong